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FREE

## Mirant Expansion Stalled - City Has Its Own Waterfront Plans



The city may site several 45-megawatt combustion turbine power plants near historic structures at Pier 70 and the existing Mirant facility on the Potrero waterfront.

*John Borg photo*

### *City Now Targets Potrero for Several Smaller Plants*

*By John Borg*

Mirant Corp.'s plans to build a huge new power plant at the foot of Potrero Hill has suffered some serious blows in recent weeks, but the community now faces the possibility that the city will build several smaller power plants in Potrero, most likely at historic Pier 70.

On July 8, the Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed (with Sup. Gavin Newsom absent) a resolution making it official city policy to oppose Mirant's proposal to build a 540-megawatt power plant adjacent to its existing units at Potrero. Rocked by severely declining stock value and more than \$11 billion in debt, Mirant filed for bankruptcy just six days later.

While these developments could doom Mirant's Potrero expansion plans, the company has pledged to continue seeking California Energy Commission approval to permit the facility. If Mirant were to sell the plant it would be a much

more valuable asset if it were already licensed for expansion. The project could still be approved despite opposition from the community and the city, or it could be amended to a smaller plant that might be more difficult to stop.

### **Potrero Preferred Site for 3 Combustion Turbine Plants**

Meanwhile, local residents now face a new problem — the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) desire to site four combustion turbine power plants in San Francisco, with Pier 70 identified as its preferred location for three or more units.

Late last year the city was given the four 45-megawatt gas-fired plants as part of a settlement with an out-of-state energy company that cheated California ratepayers. Once sited and operational, these units could enhance the city's energy reliability and allow for more progressive power programs, including closing aging plants in Hunters Point and Potrero.

Depending on how the siting proceeds, however, it is possible that within a few years essentially all fossil fuel power plants in San Francisco could be concentrated within a few blocks at the foot of Potrero Hill, including Mirant's existing plant and the city's new combus-

tion turbines, CTs. Air quality in the neighborhood is already compromised by dirty industrial neighbors, heavy diesel emissions, two freeways, Muni facilities, City Tow, Moscone Marshalling Yards, and various other polluting sources.

According to a white paper published by the SFPUC in July, there is limited industrially zoned land within the city available for power plant development, especially near existing electric substations. Based on a detailed analysis of about a half dozen possible sites, the paper concludes that Pier 70, a site controlled by the Port, is a preferred location. Two other sites near the Potrero substation, at Illinois and 23rd, could also be considered for new plants.

Two locations, one at Fifth and Jessie and the other nearby, are being considered for one of the combustion turbines, but both sites could be expensive to develop. Embarcadero could take one unit, but transmission constraints would reduce available supplies by 20 percent or more. Other sites in Hunters Point meet technical criteria, but are unacceptable due to environmental justice concerns.

### **Future of Pier 70 Threatened**

While some or all of the four small plants may be necessary to ensure ad-

equately electric reliability in San Francisco, neighbors fear Pier 70 is a poor choice.

The site played a critical role in the city's history from the mid-19th century to the end of World War II, and has been the focal point for a broader central waterfront district renewal, which includes creation of new public open space, housing, commercial, and neighborhood-serving retail uses.

In 2001, after three years of study and extensive community involvement, the Port picked two developers for an ambitious project to redevelop more than 16 acres at Pier 70 for arts, education, commercial and public uses, only to have the project fall through after the commercial real estate market crashed. Neighbors still desire redevelopment at Pier 70 as the market recovers, but if too many power plants and pollution sources were located there it could be more difficult to find developers to fund public uses or badly needed preservation work.

"Due to neglect and messy tenants parts of Pier 70 may look like an industrial wasteland, but it is without a doubt one of the most unique and important historic resources left in San Francisco," said Christopher VerPlanck, an architectural historian who has supported plans to

*(Continued on Page 11)*



# The Big Challenge

By Supervisor Sophie Maxwell

Potrero Hill is an important part of District 10 and is near and dear to me. That is why I feel it is important to explain the facts about the city's desire to install new gas-fired generators somewhere along the Hill's eastern waterfront. As you all know, I have worked very hard with members of the District 10 community to aggressively improve the local environment by fighting Mirant Corporation's inappropriate expansion of the Potrero Power Plant. We have successfully directed the city, through our San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), to develop a long-range plan dealing with electricity resources. After a year of community involvement and consensus, the Electricity Resource Plan was adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor in December 2002.

The Plan calls for the shut down of the Hunters Point Power Plant in 2005, and the phasing out of the Potrero Plant by eliminating our dependency on these old and dirty power plants. This will be accomplished over the next ten years through several means, including new transmission lines into the city to import power, reduction of demand through energy efficiency, the development of renewable energy such as solar and wind power, and plain old conservation.

Last year, as settlement of a lawsuit by City Attorney Dennis Herrera, the city took possession of four modern, clean and efficient combustion turbine generators (CTs) and \$15 million to site and license them. These 47-megawatt units burn clean natural gas, unlike Mirant's old diesel burning units at Potrero. They have the combined output of approximately 190 megawatts and the state has assured us that with the installation of the CTs, they would allow the shutdown of the

Hunters Point Power Plant in 2005. The installation of these four 4 CTs would also hasten the eventual closure of the Mirant Unit 3 power plant.

The SFPUC is developing a plan for the siting and utilization of the CTs. Over the past six months, it has assembled a team of specialists to accomplish this difficult task. However it is important that, in addition to the work of the SFPUC's engineers, we have the community involvement needed for any project affecting our city and our neighborhood. This is a big challenge.

The settlement agreement has a very short and restrictive time line. If we cannot choose feasible sites and start the licensing process within the next two months, we will lose the potential benefits these CTs can bring. To make matters more difficult, the gas supply needed to run these and the connections to the electrical grid are all located along the Eastern Waterfront. We need to let the process move along and agree on some sites that will work both from a planning and from an environmental perspective.

Once that process has started, we can refine the number of the units needed and ensure that wherever they are located, the immediate area is fully locally mitigated through the reduction of airborne pollutants from sources such as truck, buses, and trains that travel through our neighborhood.

Our ultimate goal is to cut our dependency on dirty local generation and continue to improve our environment. This is not going to happen overnight and there is no one perfect solution. But we must be willing to take intelligent steps forward to get us to our long-term goals. For more information please call my office (415-554-7670) to request a combustion turbine information package and a schedule of ongoing community discussions.

## Lessons From Enola Maxwell, Citizen Activist

# "No Unnecessary Resting"

By La Ronda Bowen

July 6, 2003. Outside the Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church in San Francisco's Sunset district, a steady stream of people of varying ages and races joined the line filing through a single door. Inside, a subdued usher directed the crowd to sign one of two guest books and offered to seat them in the balcony. There were only four seats left on the main floor, "but the view from the balcony is good," he assured a woman who asked. People already stood around the back walls. It was 12:50 p.m. and the celebration of Enola Maxwell was to begin at 1 p.m.

If there were an activist hall of fame, this would have been the induction ceremony for Enola D. Maxwell. At age 83, she was the working Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, a civic leader for whom the Potrero Hill Middle School was renamed the Enola Maxwell Middle School of the Arts, a lay minister in the Presbyterian church, and the proud mother of three, including San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. A San Francisco resident since 1948, Enola Maxwell made her transition on June 24, 2003.

San Francisco's mayor, Willie Brown remarked that he was glad Enola would be in heaven to "plead our case" when the time came. He spoke of a time when in all of San Francisco, there were only "about ten people, black or white, who had credibility with people, black and white... Enola was one of the ten," he said. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi told the story of her daughter's encounter with Ms. Maxwell. It was at an event where the younger generation was honoring the elder one for various forms of service. When the young Pelosi's turn to give the award came, Enola said to her, "Don't drop the torch."

The torch burned bright in Enola Maxwell for many causes. Sue Bierman, former member of the S.F. Board of Supervisors, recalled the beginning of Enola's activism as the start of their friendship. The two neighbors worked to strengthen the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council and stopped the construction of a freeway in Golden Gate Park in 1963. Later, members of the neighborhood council pooled their funds to send Enola to the march on Washington D.C. "Enola brought back all the fire, all the zeal and purpose of Martin Luther King Jr.," Bierman said. That zeal apparently never left her.

Glenda Hope, minister of Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, spoke of Enola's own desire to be a minister, of her frustration with the church, and of her love. Ms. Maxwell approached the church seeking to become an ordained minister at a time when it did not accept women in the role. But she refused to accept "No."

She studied at the San Francisco Theological Seminary and eventually prevailed upon the male leadership of the church by becoming the first woman and the first African American, to be named a lay minister in the Presbyterian Church. When the Presbyterians finally did ordain their first woman minister, Reverend Hope said, "Enola was there. She didn't seem to mind that it was a young white woman who was ordained." She wanted the church to do the right thing and when it did, she was there in support.

Enola Maxwell was a peace activist, a pioneer in the civil rights movements and a leader. Her accomplishments include the establishment of a thriving street ministry and coffeehouse in the Potrero Hill Olivet Presbyterian Church where she was the lay minister between 1968-1971. She became the executive director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and turned the community center into a place where, today, people participate in everything from tutoring to parenting classes, Al Anon meetings, painting workshops, and sports.

Ms. Maxwell's political influence stretched from local to state to national arenas. Willie Brown, formerly speaker of the California assembly, commented that any San Francisco mayor, who did not have the confidence of Enola Maxwell, would consider himself a failure. Nancy Pelosi said that on July 7, when she returned to Congress, she would tell her colleagues about Enola Maxwell, thereby reading her into the historical record for posterity.

As she closed her homily, Reverend Hope described her experience with Enola. "She never left any problem alone. If she saw it, she addressed it, often with a question." When she heard about the Patriot Act, Hope recalled, Enola asked, "What's wrong with those men giving away all our rights? Don't they know that people died and fought to get them?" And when she was spending a lot of time in bed, before realizing that she would not be getting up, she asked, "What's wrong with me? So much unnecessary resting." Finally, when she knew she would not be getting up again she said, "Let's pray for our city. There's so much work to be done."

Enola Maxwell was an energetic feisty, compassionate woman. She believed in making America the country our ancestors imagined—so let's look at and apply the lessons she taught: no politician is more important than the people who elected him or her; institutions and those who run them, must be accountable to those they serve; you and I are responsible for the well-being of our community; organize and work for the common good. And, most importantly, no unnecessary resting.

La Ronda Bowen is a freelance writer living in Sacramento, CA.



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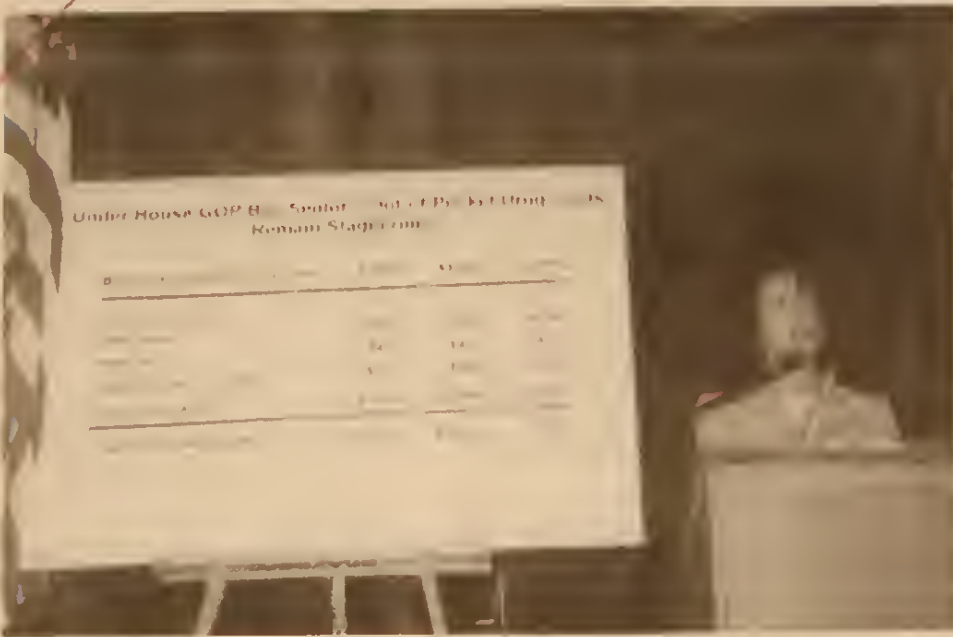
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Nancy Pelosi addressing a Town Hall meeting on July 19.

Ruth Passen photo

## Pelosi: GOP Medicare Prescription Drug Bill is Another Empty Promise

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi addressed local constituents during a Town Hall meeting at the Mission Neighborhood Center on July 19. The meeting centered on Medicare prescription drugs. "We are taking the fight to protect Medicare to the American people," she said, and vowed that the Democrats will hold more than 70 town meetings in 27 states all across the country "to talk to our constituents about the Republican attempt to unravel Medicare," she said.

Pelosi, standing next to a large chart that graphically displayed facts on medical prescription costs and how the House Republican Medicare Prescription Drug Bill won't work, referred to a letter received from AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) and said that it confirmed that the House Republican Medicare Prescription Drug Bill is another empty promise.

"Seniors trust Medicare because it is affordable and guaranteed," said AARP.

"Republicans have made their intentions clear – they want to kill Medicare," Pelosi said, and promised that "Democrats will fight to strengthen Medicare and give seniors a prescription drug benefit under Medicare that is affordable, guaranteed, and available to all seniors and disabled Americans."

"This bill is a bad deal for seniors and a perversion of the philosophy that established Medicare – that health care is a right for all people, and that age and income should not limit that right," states Lindsay McLaughlin, Legislative Director of the ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union).

The legislation proposed by the House Republicans will make the prescription drug benefit dependent on the whims of pharmaceutical companies; and will privatize Medicare, eventually destroying it.

For more information contact Pelosi's office at <http://democraticleader.house.gov> or AARP at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

## GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. On August 7 guest speaker include mayoral candidates Supervisor Tom Ammiano and City Treasurer Susan Lee. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: Aug. 7 and Sept. 4.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the first Monday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Health Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street. All meetings are open to the public. Public opinion will be welcome. Next two meetings: Aug. 4 and Sept. 1.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: Aug. 12.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next two meetings: Aug. 5 and Sept. 9.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: Aug. 1 and Sept. 5.

Starr King Park Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: Sept. 16. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: Aug. 16. The park is located along Carolina Street, south of 23rd Street. The board's secretary can be reached at 647-2745. Address mail to Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, San Francisco, CA 94188.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or call president Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: Aug. 26.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: Aug. 31.

— Wini Mann

## EDM Middle School of the Arts Facing Big Changes

By Victoria Leon Guerrero

Potrero Hill's only middle school will lose half of its teaching staff this school year due to a statewide budget crisis and low student enrollment numbers.

The small number of students at Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts has also caused the school to share its facility with a kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) charter school beginning this year.

Enrollment at the school, which many teachers, administrators, and students now refer to as Enola, has been low for years, mainly as a result of the 1997 closure of Treasure Island's naval base where a majority of its students lived and were bused from at the time.

Enola, which serves students from Bay View/Hunters Point, the Mission, and Chinatown as well as from the Hill, has not been able to enroll more than 250 students in the past three years, said former Principal Theresa Saunders.

"This facility can hold 1,100 kids and right now there are only 250 students," said Saunders, who recently left the school with hopes of attaining a superintendent position in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). "With the charter school and our recruiting there should be about 600 students here and that's small enough to have a really great operation and large enough to be able to offer all the things you need to offer in a collaborative effort with another institution."

The decisions to cut the school's staff in half and to share the building with a charter school were made by Enola's site council, 51 percent of whom are parents and the rest teachers, school administrators and community members.

### Budget Cuts Affect Teachers

All school districts in California are suffering from a state budget crisis, a national sustained economic downturn and the recent war in Iraq, according to a SFUSD press release.

About \$30 million was cut from the SFUSD budget, which still has not passed, and therefore more funds could be taken away from San Francisco's public schools, said Lorna Ho, a special assistant to the district's superintendent.

All schools were asked to make cuts in their budgets and Enola chose to cut teachers. The middle school is going from 20 to 10 teachers, Saunders said, because it

was "drastically overstaffed" last year and some classes had as few as five to seven students. Most classes had 22 to 28 students, Saunders added, which is still a lot fewer than the district's average of 33 students per classroom. This year class sizes will range from 28 to 30 students.

The 10 teachers were either laid off or consolidated (transferred to another school).

"Teachers were moved primarily based on credentials," Saunders said. "Because we are going to have so few teachers, we went to single subject rather than multiple subject credentials, so there is a teacher in each one of the content areas."

United Educators of San Francisco, the teacher's union, is working with consolidated teachers from all schools in the district to ensure that they are placed in another school and that their contracts are enforced, said Linda Plack, the union's vice president. Plack did not want to comment specifically on Enola because she said, "We are not focusing on a particular school. We are focusing on individuals."

Adriana Bo, who ran Enola's bilingual program and has taught at the school for nine years, was one of the consolidated teachers. Bo said she does not want to transfer to another school.

"I have a really close relationship with the families here," she said. "It's going to make it more difficult for me to go to another school and get to know all those families again."

Julia Schulman, a former art teacher for all grades at the school, was also consolidated and, like Bo, she is not ready to leave her students.

"The kids feel abandoned because they don't understand the politics. They just understand you're not going to be here next year and they're used to having you," she said. "I'm teaching the younger siblings of older siblings that are starting to go to college and it's great, you get to know the family."

Not only did Schulman get to know her students' families in the seven years she taught at the middle school, she said she also belonged to a family with her co-workers.

"It's sad to leave this school," Schulman said. "We're a family here. This staff is a very tight staff."

### Arts Focus to be Retained

Given the size of the school and the need to save money, the site council felt cutting teachers was the only option.

(Continued on Page 6)



Art teacher Julia Schulman in her classroom at the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts.

Victoria Leon Guerrero photo



## LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH  
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



### IT'S COMING . . .

Do you use your library card to borrow books and other library materials? Do you use the library's online catalog (here at Potrero Branch or through dial-up access at home or elsewhere) to find out what is available or to place holds on materials at the library?

If you answered yes to either or both questions, you will be glad to know that San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) is scheduled to receive a computer software upgrade at the end of the month. The goal of the upgrade is to provide better online access to the library's many resources.

In order to ensure that the new computer software will be phased in fully and properly, SFPL's Library Commission approved the following:

All library facilities will be closed to the public beginning Monday, August 25 at 6 p.m., all day Tuesday, August 26, and the morning of August 27, with all facilities re-opening at 1 p.m. Wednesday, August 27.

This means that though regular library service will be disrupted for a short period, we can better serve you when we re-open. This policy of closing temporarily is similar to what libraries across the country have done, when faced with transferring library information files from one computer system to another.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the computer system upgrade or the temporary closure of the library. Also, you can check the library's Web site [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) for current information (click on "Catalog Upgrade: Weekly Updates").

**ON DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY**  
The exhibit of 1968 photo reprints of "The Grateful Dead on the Hill" will continue to be on display through the summer. Thank you, Peter Linenthal, for loaning these prints to us! In addition, many thanks go to Digital Pond for donating a poster-size print of one of the images. This poster is now on permanent display at the library.

### AUGUST PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

¶ For children up through age 13: the Summer Reading Club continues now through August 9. Don't miss this chance to receive terrific incentive prizes for reading.

¶ For children of all ages: Clown Around With Starko the Clown! Join us on Saturday, August 2 at 4 p.m.

¶ Come for an evening of magic, comedy, and surprising tricks, featuring Magician Gerald Joseph, on Tuesday, August 12 at 7 p.m.

Here's the schedule for our regular weekly and monthly programs:

¶ Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, August 7, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

¶ Evening storytime on Tuesday, August 5 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

¶ Evening films on Tuesday, August 19 at 7 p.m.: *Let's Give Kitty a Bath*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and *Alligators All Around*. For ages 3 and older.

Note: the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also note: groups that wish to come, please contact library staff in advance for reservations.

**COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER**  
*The Five People You Meet in Heaven: A Novel*, by Mitch Albom (author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*).

*Popper: A Regan Reilly Mystery*, by Carol Higgins Clark.

*Stone Cold: A Jesse Stone Novel*, by Robert B. Parker

*The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty*, by Caroline Alexander.

Jensa Woo  
Potrero Branch Library Manager



### The View at the Library

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a long time ago, take at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library

# TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

### CODE ENFORCEMENT ON UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS

An article by Ruth Passen drew attention to the problem of unoccupied buildings on Potrero Hill that had become attractive to squatters who moved in and created dangerous and unsanitary conditions. One such was at the corner of Southern Heights and Carolina Streets (since demolished and replaced by condominium apartments). A Code Abatement Program in the local police district took action after complaints from neighbors, notifying absentee owners that the problem could be referred to the City Attorney's office, which would review the situation and determine whether legal action should be taken to seize the property.

### LOCAL CLINIC GETS REPRIEVE — IF TAX IS OKAYED

Medical directors of neighborhood health centers were notified that their clinics and programs would be reinstated for six months, effective July 1. After December future Health Department funding would depend on the passage of the pending sales tax initiatives at state and local levels. If the initiatives pass, the monies would be used to establish a permanent revenue base for the Department of Public Health.

### LIBRARY TECH HAS SURVIVED TWELVE YEARS AT BRANCH

Many Hill residents may remember Lois Bailey, who in 1993 had been a library technician at the Potrero Branch since 1981. Before coming there she had worked in the Main Library's Branch Room, with Talking Books, in the Catalog Department, the History Room, the Bay Area Reference Center, in the Ingleside, Richmond, and Merced branches and the Portola Reading Center. At Potrero Branch she had worked with eight different Branch Librarians, the latest being Toba Singer.

### MEMORIAL FOR HILL ACTIVIST SARAH CROME

Long-time Hill resident Sarah Crome died of cancer at the age of 82. She was born in Russia, and immigrated at an early age to Philadelphia, where she grew up and attended college. She embarked on a long career combining education and progressive politics. In the 1950s Crome's political activities brought her to the attention of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC) and she was forced to leave her position in the Philadelphia public school system. She then moved to San Francisco and settled on the Hill. She taught in San Francisco schools for many years, retiring from the Urban School in the early 1980s. She was an early opponent of the Vietnam War, which led to her termination by the Lick-Wilmerding School. She was arrested on several occasions for participating in non-violent demonstrations against the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

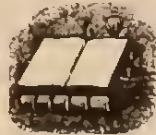
### VIEW CARTOONIST PUBLISHES NEW GUIDE

Larry Gonick, editorial cartoonist for *The Potrero View*, whose previous books include *The Cartoon History of the Universe* and *The Cartoon History of The United States* has just published *The Cartoon Guide to (Non)Communication*, which takes the reader through the thickets of kinesthetic knowledge, iconic understanding, and symbolic thinking. Gonick says images can teach very effectively.

**AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .** Dr. Robert Ross, Director of the Caleb Clark Clinic, was killed and staff doctor Peter McConarty was seriously wounded in a shooting by 74-year-old Ivan Dubinsky . . . Todd Shipyard workers picketed to protest a proposal by management to cut wages by ten percent . . . The Hill's bocce ball team won the national championship for the third time in five years . . . Removal of above-ground toxic chemical at the old Synanon and paint factory at 23rd and Kansas was completed and demolition of the structures was to begin in August.

— Bernie Gershater

# BEFORE THE INTERNET



### THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED A BOOK.

Sure there are all sorts of online communities, but what about the community in your own backyard? Christopher's Books is where Potrero Hill residents go when they want a great book and good conversation. Our booksellers know customers by name and stock the shelves with books that folks on the Hill will enjoy. So log off and take a short walk to Christopher's. If you simply can't bear to part with your keyboard, you can always email us at [cbooks@rcn.com](mailto:cbooks@rcn.com).

Christopher's  
BOOKS  
— Since 1991 —

Missouri at 18th Street, OPEN EVERY DAY: 10am-10pm 255-8802



# Quotations About Books and Libraries Wanted for Sculpture

San Francisco artist Vince Koloski is asking patrons of the San Francisco Public Library for their favorite quotations about books and libraries. Koloski is creating an illuminated sculpture, *A Library Book*, for the Mission Bay Branch Library Public Library to be built near Pac Bell Park.

The sculpture will be a giant accordion-fold book to be mounted permanently on the upper wall of the two-story reading room of the new library. Each 4 feet by 5 feet clear Plexiglas page will contain published quotations and images about what libraries mean to all of us. The words and images will be etched into the Plexiglas and illuminated from within by colored light.

The artist will use 12 quotations in the book. They will be selected and approved by a committee made up of Library staff and Art Commission members from the favorite quotations submitted by people from all over the city. Any published quotation about books and libraries may be submitted. The quotes may be in any language, from any culture, and from any time in history.

To have your quotation considered

for the sculpture, please do the following:

- Select one 40 words or less in length
- Include the source of the quotation (the book, newspaper, play, movies, magazine, song, poem, etc., where you found it) and name of the person who said or wrote it
- Include an English translation if the original quotation is not in English

Send your favorite quotation, together with your name and address, to Words for the Book, Vince Koloski Studios, 1094 Revere #A41, San Francisco, CA 94124. Quotes can also be e-mailed to the artist at [alibrarybook@excite.com](mailto:alibrarybook@excite.com).

The deadline for submission is September 1.

*A Library Book* is a public artwork whose creation is administered by the San Francisco Arts Commission specifically for the new Mission Bay Branch as part of the Library Branch Improvement Program. The artwork was selected through a public process facilitated the Arts Commission's Public Arts Program in cooperation with the San Francisco Public Library. For images of the project e-mail [vkoloski@att.net](mailto:vkoloski@att.net)

## Art on the 3rd Street Light Rail Platforms

Three Artist Teams have created a variety of designs for art elements to be architecturally integrated into the 28 platforms in the new Muni Third Street Light Rail Project. The Artist Teams were inspired by the history, ecology, and culture of their assigned neighborhoods along Third Street, as well as by themes developed at community meetings.

Themes for platforms include: railroads, biotechnology (UCSF station), and nature for three stations in Mission Bay/Potrero Hill/Central Waterfront; shipbuilding, nature, and African-inspired designs for three stations in Bayview/Hunters Point; and nature and Asian-inspired designs for two stations in Visitation Valley/Little Hollywood.

Sculptural elements attached to tall canopy poles on the platforms will each be of unique design developed specifically for the surrounding neighborhood.

Work on these platform art pieces is scheduled to begin in August.

### The Third Street Fair

WHEN:  
Saturday, August 30, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday, August 31, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHERE:  
Evans Street  
between Third and Mendell

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MM&Associates at 510-237-5393

#### In Memoriam

MARY WALL

June 26, 1922 – December 2, 2002

Lifetime Potrero Hill Resident  
Owner of the former L&H Cleaners on 20th Street

## The Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB)

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For more information about PHAMB, please visit our website at [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz)



Dogs can run free on this McKinley Park hillside looking west. Ruth Passen photo

## McKinley Park Restoration Committee Gears Up

### Grass Roots Group Wants To Save the Lawn — City Seems Eager to Help

By Sally Taylor

Less than five years ago, with a major push from neighborhood volunteers organized as the Friends of McKinley Park, this hilltop idyll at Vermont and 20th Streets got most of a major makeover. But work still needs to be done.

Now, another grass-roots effort is afoot. Neighbor George Gunther and his McKinley Park Restoration Committee have a list of needed improvements, and a small band of volunteers. Some maintenance and clean-up they intend to do themselves, but some, like rousting the homeless encampment along the Vermont street switchbacks, are jobs for the city.

When *The Potrero View* called the various city agencies to address some of these improvements for the story, we found a remarkable level of cooperation. (Next month we'll be able to report on the action they have taken.)

The 1999 improvements included a new fenced children's playground, a grass-topped open park area with flower beds and benches for enjoying the perennial sweeping views through aged Monterey Pines west over the Mission, to Bernal Heights and Twin Peaks.

A "free-running" area for dogs, planned for the western slope going down to the 101 freeway, is well signed, but remains under-utilized. Trash and broken glass from the homeless encampment, plus the high grass growth this spring (recently cleared by Department of Public Works) give dog owners an excuse to use the lawn areas as their dog tun. Poop scooping is not rigidly observed, and a few dogs inevitably find the sand of the children's playground their favorite toilet spot.

Gunther says that a discrepancy in jurisdictions among Recreation & Parks, Public Works and CalTrans leaves some parts of the park unkempt. Though a rusting chain link fence demarks the CalTrans area from the dog run slope, the View found holes in the fence afford the campers a secluded area.

DPW sent a truck out within an hour of our first call, but when the worker found the encampment, she suggested we call her supervisor for a proper work team to clear them out and clean up the trash.

"People come from all over the city to use this park," Gunther told the View. "They want to get out of the fog belt, and they want their animals to be able to run free."

"We also need improvements to the children's playground," he says. "Parents want a morning shady area for children and a diaper disposal facility. We need the western slope landscaped and kept clean for a safe dog run. We need benches down there for the dog owners using that area. The lawn needs to be restored for picnickers and the dogs controlled there. And security needs to be improved."

Gunther is soliciting more volunteers for this agenda. "We need to secure funding for these park projects and to interface with official and private parties with a will to help."

He and his current band will be distributing leaflets among park users and neighbors the next few weeks, calling for a community meeting in September to discuss ways the park's full restoration can be achieved. (See box — Ed.)

"Some people would rather give money than their time," says Gunther. "That is fine, but we also need volunteers willing to get their hands dirty."

For mote details call him at 415-282-6822.

Sally Taylor, who calls Potrero Hill home whenever she is in the city, has been a contributor to the View for many years.

## District-wide Meeting Date Set

A meeting to consider captial improvements for all parks in District 10, which includes Potrero Hill, as well as parks in districts 6 and 9, has been set for Thursday, September 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Jackson Playground clubhouse at 18th and Arkansas streets.

The meeting, formatted as a workshop, "will be the public's best chance to establish priorities for the future of our various parks," said Jill Fox, Potrero Hill's representative for the city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee.



# EDM Middle School of the Arts Facing Big Changes

(Continued from Page 3)

Aside from overstaffing, the decision to cut teachers instead of programs was made in order to retain the school's focus on the arts, said Calla Felicity, site council co-chair.

"We support the staff, but programming is more important. We chose this school because of its arts programming," said Felicity, whose daughter Opal is entering the seventh grade at Enola. "One parent stated very clearly that 'without a special art focus, there would be no need for a small middle school in Potrero Hill.'"

But there will only be three teachers reaching arts classes for all grades this year — one full-time visual arts teacher, one dance teacher, and one music teacher who will also teach band, said the school's new principal Bruce Gao. There will be no theater classes offered at the middle school.

Debbie Santiago, a parent on the site council, said she is concerned that the teachers might be overwhelmed.

"One teacher will teach all the music, music appreciation, French and band. She also does the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program, teaches a literacy class and a string orchestra class after school," Santiago said.

Jack Jacqua, a former teacher who worked at the middle school for 15 years, said he doesn't consider Enola an arts school because there are so few art classes and teachers.

"What arts classes are offered there?" he asked. "It's not what it's advertised to be."

The site council requested that Creative Arts Charter occupy the second floor of the middle school because of its arts

focus in hopes that the two schools could work together to strengthen their arts programs, Felicity said.

## Charter School to Share Space

"Charter schools are independent public schools that are sponsored by school districts and county boards of education that monitor their quality and integrity but allow them to operate free from the traditional bureaucratic and regulatory red tape that hogs public schools," according to the California Network of Educational Charters' Web site. "As a public school, a charter school is open to all who wish to attend it (without regard to race, religion, or academic ability) and paid for with tax dollars (no tuition charges)."

Creative Arts Charter was San Francisco's first charter school and opened 10 years ago, said the school's principal Steve Good. The charter school will pay the district between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year from its general funds to use the facility, he said.

It has been rumored that the charter school does not have credentialed teachers, but Good said all of the academic teachers are fully credentialed. The arts teachers are what he called "artists-in-residence," meaning they are professional artists who teach at the charter part time.

The charter school has 200 students and one class for every grade level, K-8. It will start the school day 15 minutes earlier than Enola and will have a separate entrance into the building. Although the schools will be sharing facilities such as the auditorium and the cafeteria, the students from both schools will be separated

at all times with different lunch periods, Gao said.

The schools are both small enough for this to work, Gao and Good said.

"There is plenty of space for both schools to exist peacefully," Good said. "I think that initially there might be some challenges and Gao and I will have to work closely to overcome them."

Good said he is hoping the staffs from the two schools can exchange ideas about the best practices in arts education and that the charter school can help improve Enola's reputation.

"Having younger kids at the school could soften the edge at the school," he said. "Enola has a reputation for being rough on the edges and having a K-8 school on site instead of middle school students will help to remove that stigma."

## Concerns for the Future

Tony Alvire, a teacher at Enola since 1978, said he believes the school is being set up to be turned into a charter school. He heard that students who chose to attend the middle school this year were turned away to keep the enrollment numbers low.

"We had 121 parents list this school as their first choice for their sons and daughters," he said. "From the information we have, the district is only allowing 54 of those students to come here...many of us believe that most of the students who wanted this as their first choice were turned down so eventually in two years our school will be closed and the remaining students here will be absorbed by this arts charter school."

Orla O'Keeffe, a special assistant to

the superintendent who oversees enrollment for all San Francisco public schools, wrote in an e-mail in May that only 47 students requested Enola as their first choice. A total of 57 offers were made to students who wanted to attend the middle school she said.

"All students who requested Enola Maxwell as a first choice got an assignment offer to Enola Maxwell," O'Keeffe said.

The district allows students to choose their top five schools and tries to assign students to the school that is closest to their first choice if there is space available at that school, Ho said. The number of requests for Enola continues to go up as the enrollment carries on she added, and students will be placed there if it is their first choice and there is space.

"There is no intention for the charter school to take over that area," Ho said. "We are hoping that Enola continues to be a feeder school for the School of the Arts High School and the district has every intention to continue to put effort into it."

## Community Council Formed

Jacqua said he does not believe the district is interested in saving the school, so he and a group of community members formed a council that will meet for the first time this month to protect Enola.

He said he is convinced that the decision to share the school with Creative Arts Charter was a financial move.

"It's all about money," he said. "It's not about education or what's best for the kids or the community. It's all about profits."

(Continued on Page 15)

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## FORT MASON CENTER EVENTS

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Book Bay Bookstore, Bldg C: Books CDs, videos, DVDs and ephemera donated by the people and businesses of S.F. to support programs in the public libraries. This month's featured section is audio book. August 1-31, daily 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 415-1076.

The Mexican Museum, Bldg D: "The Fantastic & the Familiar," an exhibit of works on paper from the Museum's permanent collection on view through September 27. Surreal landscapes by Francisco Toledo, figurative drawings by Jose Luis Cuevas, and fantastic figures by Rufino Tamayo are included in this exhibit exploring themes of fantasy and everyday life. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. 415-202-9700.

The Museo Italo-Americano, Bldg C: "Time & Dreams On My Hands," paintings by Anna Caser; and "Chrysalis," sculptural works by Susan Marie Freda through Sunday, August 10. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Admission \$3/\$2, children under 12 free; first Wednesday of month noon-7 p.m. free. 415-673-220.

The Museum Of Craft And Folk Art, Bldg A: "Bella Feldman: War Toys Redux," cast iron and blown glass objects demonstrating the absurdity and futility of war through Sunday, August 17. "Revealing Influences: Conversations with Bay Area Artists." 20 guest curators each chose one artist whose work demonstrates the integration of craft, folk art and contemporary art. Wednesday, August 27 through Saturday, November 15. Artists' reception, Wednesday, August 27, 6:30-8 p.m. Gallery hours Tuesday-Friday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed August 18-26). Admission \$4/\$3, under 18 free, Saturday 10 a.m.-noon and first Wednesday of month 11 a.m.-7 p.m. free. 415-775-0991.

Fort Mason Center Main Office Lobby, Bldg A: "Nature in California," August 6 through September 26. Love of the land and concern for the environment are the themes of the 28 winning entries from the SF Bay Chapter of Sierra Club's 2nd annual photography contest. Artists' reception Wednesday, August 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. 415-924-5684.

Vintage European Poster Sale, Bldg C: More than 1000 antique posters from France, Italy and the US are for sale at this annual event. Custom framing is also available. Saturday, August 16 and Sunday, August 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 510-530-3353.

Psychic Healing Fair, Bldg C: Psychic Horizons' clairvoyant students and graduates offer readings and healings on issues of your choice, Saturday August 16, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Free. 415-643-8800.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND EVENT: Kings Mountain Art Fair, only 35 minutes from downtown San Francisco. This year Potrero Hill musician Aryeth Frankfurter and Potrero Hill ceramicist Jacqueline Thompson are included in the fair, with 130 juried artists plus 25 local "Mountain Folk" artists displaying fine arts and crafts in the redwoods, August 30 and 31, and September 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Kings Mountain Community Center, 13889 Skyline Blvd. above Woodside and Half Moon Bay. Free.

IRON SCIENCE TEACHER AT THE EXPLORATORIUM is an offbeat science competition for teachers, Fridays, August 1 and 8, noon to 1 p.m. A wacky science experiment cook-off, where teachers compete live at the museum and are simultaneously webcast around the world. In an atmosphere where showmanship and creativity reign at a fast pace before a live audience, as many as fifteen teachers will compete for the title, "Iron Science Teacher," a parody of the Japanese cooking show, the Iron Chef. The event is free with admission to the Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street in the Palace of Fine Arts.

OTHER EXPLORATORIUM EVENTS include: "Domesticated Wilds: Exotic Animal Pets," Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3; "Songbird Tea and Insect Musicians," a cultural look at animal magnetism, Sunday, August 10; "Animal Magnetism" exhibition continues through September 28; "The Physics of Toys," Saturday, August 16, noon-4 p.m. For more information about these events visit [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu).

MEDICAL OPTIONS. Free courses with speakers, videos, and discussion of latest news on health topics. Friday, August 22: video "Of Sound Mind and Body: Music and Vibrational Healing;" Friday, August 29: video "Natural Pain Relief," learn the benefits of Jin Shi Do acupuncture, Reflexology, and Focused Breathing. 9:30 a.m.-noon, The Sequoias, 1501 Post (corner Gough), lower level California Suite. For more info call 550-4415.

THE OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE "Visualization: techniques for coping with stress and pain," Saturday, August 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Admission is free. Call the OWL office at 989-4422 for the location.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE AT PROJECT ARTAUD presents "Rush Hour," an exhibition by Kathryn Kenworth. Using everyday materials, she creates small models and experiments that explore the greater depth of phenomenon and space, Friday, August 29 through Sunday, October 12.

"It Happens in the Mission," an interactive art exhibit that investigates themes addressed in The Mission Movie, a collaborative feature film about the Mission District. Through photography, poems and paintings "It Happens in the Mission" explores the three important issues, the immigrant experience, murals and activism. Tuesday, August 19 to December 13.

"Sama-Sama/You're Welcome," a new mural on the Alabama Street fence, is an international collaboration between community arts organizations and artists from San Francisco and Yogyakarta, Indonesia. There will be a public mural reception, Friday, August 29, 6-9 p.m. Free admission.

AUGUST AT THE S. F. PUBLIC LIBRARY, 100 Larkin Street at Grove, call 415-557-4400 for gallery hours. The Jewett Gallery and Skylight Gallery: Elder Arts 2003: A Triple Art Event, celebrating the artistic contribution of elder adults with a three-part exhibition with the 12th Annual Art with Elders Exhibit presenting the art of nursing home residents; the Elder Arts Celebrations Exhibit highlighting the work of senior alumni, faculty and students from the Bay Area's art schools; and the Bay Area Elder Artist of the Year exhibit, a retrospective of work by photographer Ira H. Latour. Saturday, August 16 through October 19, The Jewett Gallery and Skylight Gallery.

Eclecticism: The Art Of Appropriation, paintings by artist Diallo that explore historical, artistic and literary figures, through Friday, August 15, third floor, African-American Center.

Min-Sok: Korean Heritage in San Francisco, an exhibit of photographs and documents from private collections chronicling how Korean immigrants kept their culture alive as they migrated outward from Hawaii to San Francisco, through August 21, third floor, International Center

Driving San Francisco, exhibition highlighting the foibles and follies of driving on the city's hills, includes historical street maps, road signs and license plates, postcards and photographs, through August 26, sixth floor, outside San Francisco History Center.

It's All About Color and Movement, quilt exhibit by staff librarian Cher delaMere. August 1-September 30, fourth floor.

AFRICAN ARTISTS EXHIBIT ABOUT THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE, at the University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton at Cole, Thacher Gallery, August 18-September 28. "The Cosmic Walk: Tapestries by Kopanang Women's Group" will be on exhibit. A reception and walking tour will be held on Wednesday, September 10, from 4-6 p.m. in the gallery. The 31 brightly embroidered panels on display depict the creation of the universe from the big bang to the present, by the women of Kopanang, a community-based initiative addressing poverty, unemployment, AIDS and the legacy of apartheid in South Africa. Free. For more information call 422-5178.

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN ARTISTS present "Summer Showcase," an exhibit of works in all media by SFWA members. Thursday, August 7 through Wednesday, August 27, at SomArts Gallery, 934 Brannan Street, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Phone 826-1895 for more information.

FREEDOM FEST 2003, hosted by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) will take place Saturday, August 9, from noon to 5 p.m. at Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse Bandshell. This free event will showcase an eclectic line-up of performers, including award-winning Bay Area musicians and an array of other talented artists. The afternoon is a celebration of Bay Area talent and an opportunity for them to share their music. EFF is the leading civil liberties organization working to protect rights in the digital world. Founded in 1990, EFF actively encourages and challenges industry and government to support free expression and privacy online, and is a member-supported organization and maintains one of the most linked-to websites in the world at [www.eff.org](http://www.eff.org).

THE CAFE SHOW is being presented at SomArts Bay Gallery, 934 Brannan St. during the month of August, as a collaboration with Artwork SF, curated by Johnny Davis of Artwork. This exhibition will feature works by over 150 participating artists and will be hung salon style in the SomArts Bay Gallery. There will also be poetry readings, open mike performances, and espresso service during the exhibition. All work will be for sale, to benefit Artworks and SomArts. Dates for the show are Thursday August 7 through Wednesday August 27, with an opening reception August 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information call Betsie Miller-Kusz, 552-2131 ext. 7.

I KNOW I CAN TALENT SHOW! will be presented by the Experiment in Diversity program of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, Thursday, September 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. The program welcomes youngsters ages 7 and up, in categories of Juniors (7 to 10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (13-18). There will some cash prizes for lucky winners in each category. The Neighborhood House is located at 953 De Haro St. The program is sponsored by the Department of Children, Youth and Families. For more information call 826-8080.

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Charles Floyd

# Hill Resident Wins Product Design Award

Inventive designs for a new type of sandal and a water temperature indicator recently won Industrial Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) for two students in the Design and Industry Dept. at the San Francisco State University.

Senior Charles L. Floyd, a Putreru Hill resident, received the bronze medal in the IDEA student designs category for his Faucet Friend Water Temperature Indicator. The product, an inexpensive piece that attaches to a water faucet, changes colors as temperatures rise or fall to help avoid scalding.

"This award validates that I should continue to pursue the field of product design," said Floyd, 39, who moved to San Francisco from Louisiana in 1989. "It gives me encouragement more than anything else."

There is no similar product on the market, Floyd says, adding there is a patent pending on the design. Graduate student Arvind Gupta received the gold medal in the student designs category for his innovative Modular Hinge Sandal. Users purchase one shoe frame and choose various styles of outer sleeves, changing the look of the footwear without buying new shoes. Gupta spent six months working on his design after he noticed a limited selection of sandals on the market, as well as high manufacturing costs and consumer prices. It too is like nothing available and has a patent pending. The IDEAs, sponsored by BusinessWeek and juried by the Industrial Designers Society of America, are an annual contest in which product designers are honored in 12 categories. This year's 122 winners included designs by companies such as Apple, Motorola and Logitech as well as the nation's top design firms, including IDEO and ZIBA. A total of 1,279 entries from 15 countries were received for this year's contest.

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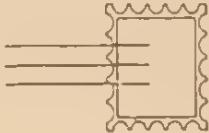
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# Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks



*A Thunderbird Night of Terror* at the Phoenix Theatre August 28-September 20.

## Real Terror

The meaning of the word "terror" has perhaps become lost lately, due to sometimes inappropriate and often excessive use. To rescue the word and return it to its full power comes the Thunderbird Theatre Company with their performance of *A Thunderbird Night of Terror* at the Phoenix Theatre, 414 Mason St., Suite 601. They promise us a night complete with edge-of-seat-sitting and serious spine tingling. Self-described as hilariously terrifying, the show introduces us to a new axis of evil — that of rock idols Ringo Starr and Donovan. Their adventures, chronicled in six One Acts, launch a gruesome quest to destroy the major irritants of modern life. Yup you guessed it, their targets are organized religion, monster trucks, and B.I.N.G.O. Even thinking about the spectres of such gruesome activities makes the words "pre-emptive strike" leap to my lips. But the terror doesn't end there. We are invited to quiver at the horrific results as three maladjusted metal heads — is there any other kind of metal head? — raise a demon. To share the nightmare of two desperate women looking for love in an airport lounge. Considering the combined essence of foot

odor that airports reek of these days, due to security-induced de-shoeing, that sounds like miles away from sexy. Finally we can all empathize with the pain of a woman scorned when her stalker admits his two-timing ways. To be cuckolded by a stalker is indeed a terrifying prospect. The press release warns us that, "terror doesn't get any weirder than this." Pathological Fear as national pastime has warped us all. What ever happened to baseball? It is time terror was tweaked. We all need a readjustment in our understanding of terror, and a little perspective goes a long way to getting a grasp on what is really scary in times when duct tape is heralded as an important security tool. I know that I am more terrified of reality television than I am of Saudi Arabia. To re-aquaint yourself with the true meaning of the word terror see *A Thunderbird Night of Terror*, opening August 28 and running Thursdays through Mondays until September 20. Performances begin at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$15. For information call 415-826-6766 or visit [www.thunderbirdtheatre.com](http://www.thunderbirdtheatre.com). For tickets contact TicketWeb at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or call toll free 1-866-468-3399.



## Comedypalooza

Finally an answer to that age-old question: can San Franciscans be funny? As an East Coast ex-pat, I wonder. Are they too politically correct and laid back to capture that manic boundary-busting insanity that makes funny hilarious and communicable like an air-borne disease? Can you be funny when you are concerned with liberal speak, when your term for midgets is "vertically challenged"? Can you make an audience roll on the floor with laughter without a certain amount of obvious neurosis? Or have we smoked too much of Humboldt County's good stuff to retain that sharp sense of deadpan? The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, puts the spotlight on stand-up comics and tackles these questions in the month of August. The *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Marsh Comedy Festival* — the first comedy festival to emphasize local talent — presents a comic feast. With comedic monologues on the main stage, an open mic at The Mock Cafe, and a late night sketch and comedy showcase The Marsh proclaims: "We'll be a veritable comedy madhouse." Opening the festival is the comic Darryl Henriques, whom the SF Chronicle has called "an amalgam of Lenny Bruce, Paul Krassner, and Robin Williams." Scott Caporro, Phyllis Dantzler, and Liz White also storm the stage with only their senses of humor for armor and no laugh track in sight. You can see the Bay Area's sense of humor put to the test August 7-23, Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$15-22. Call 415-826-5750 for more information.

## Swing Baby, Swing

When I was in high school a swing dancing craze took over. We had our own Rock-a-billy band whose members dressed in leather jackets with greased-back pompadours and cigarettes tucked into the sleeves of their white T-shirts. Some girl groupies wore poodle skirts and button-down sweater sets. And even if we didn't all dress the part, most of us liked to dance the part. There was a classic rhythm to it that was sexy and energetic, but safer than the booty dancing or awkward flailing most teenagers gawkily perform. Safer not just in the realm of teenage sexuality but also because you knew you could look cool doing it. Swing and ballroom dance may seem old fashioned, but they have an exuberant flair that is exciting to watch. The Metronome Ballroom presents its 3rd annual student/teacher showcase, *Fascinating Rhythms*, at the Cowell Theater, where we can watch real swing and ballroom dancers shimmy, shake, and well, swing. Julie Lowe, a former principal dancer with the Oakland Ballet Company, directs a cast of over fifty students and professionals. At the show's center is the duo of Melissa Rutz and Arjay Centeno, who perform in the world of competitive dance. To catch a glimpse of the glam excitement of couples dancing see *Fascinating Rhythms*, August 15 and 16, at 8 p.m. at the Cowell Theater, located in the Fort Mason Center, at the corner of Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. Tickets are available at 415-345-7575 and are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. If you yourself feel like kicking up your heels and dancing the part, The Metronome Ballroom is a dance instruction facility located on the Hill, 1830 17th Street, call 415-252-9000 for more information.

## Neo Beatnik

*the Beat* is back in San Francisco, and I ain't talking Jack Kerouac. This beat is that of the downbeat, the musical moment in which any number of instruments playing distinct parts unite as a whole. Universal Arts presents *the Beat*, created and directed by Kamal Sinclair Steele in collaboration with Robbie McCauley and Baakari Wilder, at Baha'i Center Theater, 170 Valencia St, between Market and Duboce. *The Village Voice* reports that *the Beat* "rocks your world with a boogie-down metaphysical lesson in Rhythm as Universal Law." The metaphor of the downbeat is pretty clear, a beautiful cacophony of diversity emphasized by the harmony of artistic unification. To bring this to life is a seventeen-member ensemble of dancers, musicians and spoken word artists employing multimedia and combining the influences of jazz, funk, Latin, hip-hop, Capoeira, rhythm tap, and Gambain dance. A seven piece band weaves music while seven dancers provide visual movement and three free-form vocalists lend text and verbal style to the production. *the Beat* opens August 1 and continues through the 23, every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with a Saturday 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$15-20, and can be purchased by calling 415-431-9870 ext. 99999 or visiting [www.universalarts.org](http://www.universalarts.org).



*Being on the Outside* at Theatre of Yugen, August 25 and 26.

## Single Human, Seeking Same

Every month Theatre of Yugen brings us its series, Yugen Presents, at Noh space, 2840 Mariposa Street at Florida Street. This month features *Being on the Outside*, a series of monologues that revolve around the feelings of being misunderstood and ostracized from society. There is potent irony in the universality of the feelings of loneliness and exile, in that we have all experienced what it is to feel as if we are solitary figures that do not fit into the crowds and cliques that surround us. Clichés abound to describe this emotion, so common that it is almost a human trait. The man alone in the crowd, the solitary figure in the busy city street. Conceived by Alice Shikina, these monologues weave music and movement with language to bring into focus these meditations on our shared isolation. Shikini is joined by Margery Krietman, Carl Thelin, Marilyn Crier Hughes, Melinda Fogle, Tony Pisculli, Aoise Stratford, and Seanna Magee. Performances are Monday and Tuesday, August 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-15 and reservations can be secured at 415-621-7978 or purchased online at [www.theatreofyugen.org](http://www.theatreofyugen.org).



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## Labor Day Festival: Day of Music Celebrates Workers and Work

San Francisco will celebrate its legendary labor movement, both past and present, at the first annual S.F. Labor Day Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens, Monday, September 1 (Labor Day), 2003, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The free family event features performances, beginning at noon, by Bay Area favorites Holly Near, Linda Tillery and Cultural Heritage Choir, storyteller and performer Utah Phillips, the S.F. Labor Chorus, the Mammals and Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, and Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeno Band. Wavy Gravy will emcee the day's program. Bring a picnic!

Centrally located at Yerba Buena Gardens (Mission Street between Third and Fourth), the Festival also offers children's activities – face painting, balloon artists, fun-jumpers, and the Sun and Moon Puppet Ensemble – all day.



Utah Phillips

This first annual Labor Day Festival is sponsored by the California Historical Society, California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, KALW FM and KPFA FM, Mother Jones, the S.F. Labor Council, and San Francisco State University.

For more Festival information, see [sflabordayfestival.com](http://sflabordayfestival.com) or call 415 543-1718 on weekdays.



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# Mirant Expansion Stalled - City Has Its Own Waterfront Plans

(Continued from Page 1)

redevelop the site. "It would be incredibly short-sighted to build power plants in the middle of what could be a remarkable and economically valuable historic district with exciting new uses."

The city, backed by public power advocates, is anxious to find a place for its four CTs by December. Although a final decision has not yet been made, the city needs to secure its sites by the end of the year or lose the CTs entirely.

## Limited Time for Citizen Input

District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell is working with the SFPUC and asking community members to help set up a series of neighborhood meetings on the siting process. However, after three years of battling the Mirant project, some neighbors worry that a few months is not adequate time to fully involve the community in the siting process, or to develop consensus on reasonable mitigations for impacted neighborhoods. No public meetings have been scheduled as of press time.

"The city hasn't put anything on the table other than more power plants," said Steven Moss, a Potrero resident. "Before additional fossil fuel plants are built close by our schools and playgrounds we need to know what mitigations will be provided. And we need to understand whether or not *all* the CTs are necessary to achieve our goals of shutting down the Hunters Point and phasing-out the Potrero plants."

**"Before we accept anything,  
our voices need to be heard.**

**Decisions made today  
will be with us for  
three decades or more.  
Our childrens' future  
is at stake."**

STEVEN MOSS  
Potrero Resident

Current forecasts of San Francisco's energy demands, combined with transmission upgrades within the city, ongoing energy efficiency and renewable generation (e.g., solar) programs, indicate that the Hunters Point Plant could be closed by 2005 without additional in-city generation. It's also plausible that Potrero's largest unit could be shut down by 2008 if more investments are made in transmission, demand reduction, and small scale generation.

However, there's a risk that the necessary investments will not be made, and that powerful institutions will insist on in-city generation regardless of these other activities. The California Independent System Operator ultimately decides what plants will be closed and when. Cal-ISO has stated that it wants the four combustion turbines to be sited in San Francisco *before* it closes just Hunters Point's biggest unit. Cal-ISO has already approved a \$30-million retrofit at Potrero's Unit 3 — resulting in a reduction in smog-related emissions but not asthma-causing particulate matter — which will extend the plant's life for years.

"Before we accept anything, our voices need to be heard," said Moss. "Decisions made today will be with us for three decades or more. Our childrens' future is at stake."

*John Borg, who lives and works in Dogpatch, is a member of the Potrero Power Plant Citizens Advisory Task Force*



The Potrero Power Plant

*John Borg photo*

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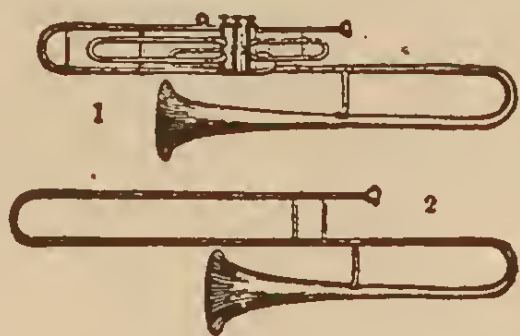
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**trom'bōne, n.** [Fr., from It. *trombone*, from *tromba*, a trumpet.] a large, brass-wind instrument consisting of a long tube bent parallel to itself twice and ending in a bell mouth: it is of two types, the *slide trombone*, in which different tones are produced by moving the slide, or movable section of the tube, in or out, and the *valve trombone*, played, like the trumpet, with valves.



TROMBONES  
1. valve trombone; 2. slide trombone

## Confessions of a B-Flat Trombone

By Chuck Elkind

Feeling unwanted after languishing in a Mission district pawnshop for over a year, my dismay ended when a 14-year-old came to the storefront window. Right away I sensed a kindred spirit.

When the kid's father successfully closed an intense haggling bout with the pawnshop owner, an engaging 12-year odyssey had begun.

After the first atonal months, however, the kid's father may have regretted the acquisition. But the honking eventually improved so that we finally went public when the kid joined the high school band.

Sit-down performances went well. But in his first marching experience at Kezar Stadium, the kid was unable to keep the mouthpiece from wobbling. Things went totally awry when he tripped on a divot and sent the music flying from the metal lyre attached to the horn. Worsening matters, he raced about, picking up the paper and mortified by spectators' guffaws.

Conceding that the pairing with John Philip Sousa was a mismatch, the kid moved on to a dance band where he fared better. There was a gig at a downtown Polk Street hall, however, which produced a bizarre scene: walls overwhelmed by giant Swastikas and blow-ups of Adolf Hitler; and men defiantly wearing Nazi uniforms, boisterously shouting "Heil Hitler" in rhythm to the clanging of beer steins.

There was even a Hitler look-alike icily sizing up band members.

Good grief! We were playing in the Nazi Bund's San Francisco headquarters. This prelude to the start of World

War II led to the kid's enlistment in an Air Force band.

Steadfast companions the next two years in the Nevada desert, there was one episode where we almost broke up. My rival was a horn with three trumpet-like valves, but no slide, which gave the player greater dexterity. After endless waffling, however, the kid decided not to switch to a valve trombone.

The relationship was further stressed when the kid schlepped me on a troopship voyage of several thousand Pacific Ocean miles to the Philippine Islands.

Perhaps like a Hollywood scenario, a local musician's sad tale undid the whole relationship: "When the Japanese invaded the islands in 1942, I buried my horn so the enemy could not melt it down into munitions.

"After nearly four years underground, the horn is barely playable for my Manila pit band job. I can afford to pay top price, but the U.S. is shipping only essentials. Musical instruments wouldn't be coming for many months."

Embarrassed that a professional had to perform under such a severe handicap, the kid made a gallant gesture. Refusing to profiteer from the Filipinos' plight, the kid would only accept the substantially lower figure paid for the horn at the pawnshop 12 years earlier.

The last time I saw the kid he was boarding a troopship homebound for San Francisco primed to buy my replacement with the Manila trombonist's money.

(Fadeout with a Sinatra voice-over version of "I'll be seeing you.")

*Chuck Elkind, aka the kid, did indeed buy himself another trombone.*

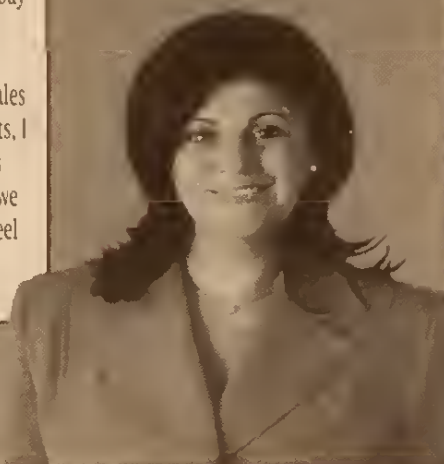
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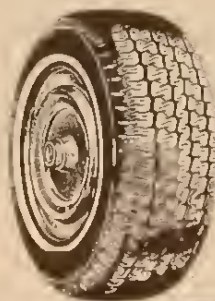
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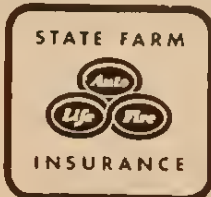
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# History of ILWU Revisited on Stage

By Ruth Passen

Work on the San Francisco waterfront played a dynamic role in the city's history, and the efforts of early union activists helped shape that history in many dramatic ways.

A new play, *Fire on Pier 32* by Jack Rasmus, about that early period and the struggles of San Francisco waterfront workers in the 1930s, was performed at the Mission Cultural Center in July during a month-long tribute to workers.

From the maritime and general strikes of 1934 San Francisco to the present day, this story is also about American labor and the nature of shipping companies' anti-union offensives – both past and present.

Rasmus does history – and those who saw his play – a great service by reminding the audiences about the events of the '30s, and the binding results of what happened to union members and the labor movement from that time forward.

Moving cargo by ship became a booming business after gold was discovered in the Sierras in the late 1800s, and the San Francisco waterfront grew and expanded in rapid succession, as the city's port began to bring to the West Coast new styles of living.

This original play, with music and songs performed by a very talented and professional cast, centers on the city's waterfront workers and the events around a 1934 strike which closed down the waterfront, and, with the commitment from most other unions, virtually stopped all work in the city. Nothing moved in or out of San Francisco, particularly with the total support of teamsters and sailor's unions.

It's been a long time since a performance about unionism and a strong labor movement has been written, and author Rasmus (a member of the Service Employees International Union) has produced a powerful piece of work. He is planning to film the play and ready it for

sale on DVD later in the year.

I was so glad to have seen the play, and was riveted by the history, learning new things about the early meetings between the union leaders, as well as the corporate figures who played dominant roles in negotiations. As good as the play is, however, I wish the author had

included the role of women in union activities, because the play is dated from 1933 to 2002. Indeed, the waterfront union has recently changed its name to International Longshore and Warehouse Union (from Longshoremen and Warehousemen), in deference to the many female workers in the union.

Cronyism on the waterfront came about because of the "shape up," and the "blue book," practices that

employed through their dock bosses. The names of favored workers were listed in a blue book. Those who worked each day were expected to kick back some of their pay to the dock bosses.

When enough anger and resentment had built up, dockworkers finally became militant and decided to do something dramatic about the shape up. They managed to collect all the blue books, which they then burned at Pier 32 in 1933, proclaiming a new day for working man on the docks.

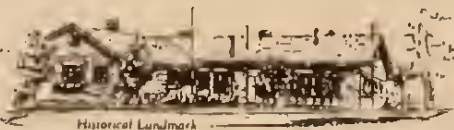
Young labor activists Harry Bridges and Henry Schmidt helped organize a new longshore union, and the rest is quite a history. Their vision gave rise to the modernization of workplace rules, dignity for workers, and setting up of a hiring hall.

Perhaps more people will be able to see this play when the DVD is released. If not, sources on the labor movement in San Francisco are available in libraries and on the Internet.

*Drawing by Scott Johnston from Men Who Lead Labor by Bruce Minton and Stuart Charles, published by Modern Age Books, Inc., New York, 1937.*



Harry Bridges



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## EDM School Facing Big Changes

(Continued from Page 6)

Schulman said the effort put into bringing the charter school to Enola should have been put into improving enrollment for the school.

"There's really no research that says that charter schools are better for kids. There's nothing that points that it's working," she said. "And all that money that's spent on charters should be, in my opinion, brought back to public education."

Jacqua said instead of cutting the school's population in half, the district should relocate students from overcrowded schools to Enola.

"Why don't they build up the popula-

tion and make it an arts school?" he asked.

Whatever the future holds for the middle school, Jacqua said the newly formed community council is dedicated to ensuring that it remains a public school, which is what its namesake, Potrero Hill community leader Enola D. Maxwell, had intended.

"We are committed to keeping Ms. Maxwell's legacy alive," he said. "This school has a great history and there's no point in trying to get rid of it."

*Victoria Leon Guerrero is a senior politics major at the University of San Francisco, where she is editor in chief of the student-run newspaper, the San Francisco Foghorn.*



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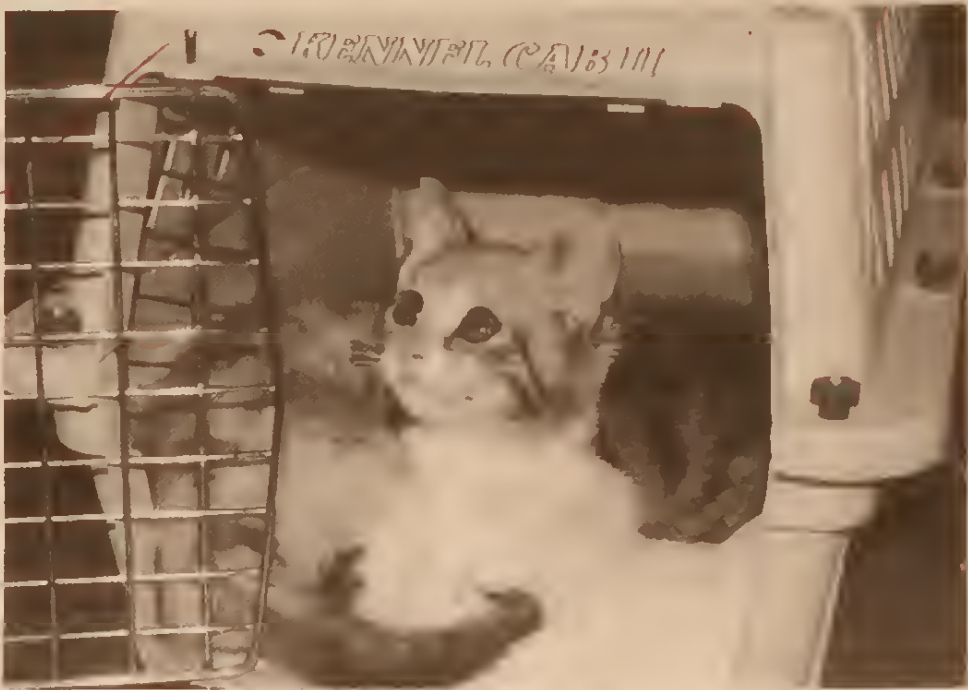
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Kittens at Animal Care and Control need foster parents. *Sandhya Dirks photo*

## How Much Is That Kittie in the Window?

On a recent Sunday at Animal Care and Control the soft mewling of little kittens sounded a chorus in the halls. Yes, it's that time of year again, the time of year when kittens over-run shelters, farmers markets, and classified ads. But the kittens at Animal Care and Control have a secret weapon, a patron saint, Toni Festak. Toni runs the foster parent program, allowing kittens as young as three days old to survive where previously they would have had no chance. Volunteer foster parents take in these lost kittens, devoting their time to bottle feeding, giving at-home veterinary care, and providing constant love and supervision. Toni has helped to build up this program in the past five years from two volunteers to a force of 36 foster parents. And the graduates of the foster parent program, like the kitten pictured

above, are getting ready to be adopted. They have crossed through the dangerous time of kittenhood, where they are susceptible to diseases like panleukopenia, or distemper. They have received their shots, but most importantly they have been handled by nurturing human hands, and have become friendly and personable, far from the feral cats that they were born as.

If you are thinking about adopting a kitten that has come out of the foster program, visit the shelter at 1200 15th Street, at Harrison. If you are interested in contributing to the foster parent program with donations of blankets or food or if you would like to become a foster parent, contact Animal Care and Control at 415-554-6364, and ask for Toni Festak, the Patron Saint of Abandoned Kittens.

— Sandhya Dirks

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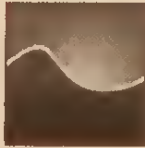
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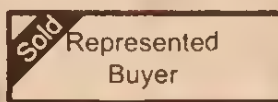
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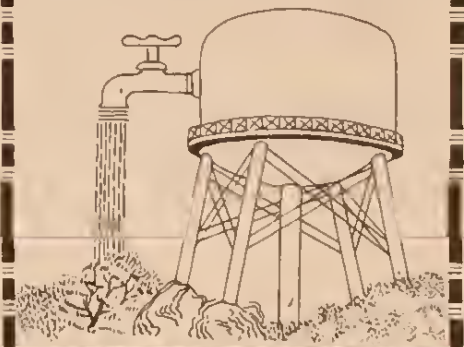
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Set on the Hill, *FOO* is about a 17-year-old girl's experiences as an activist.  
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**SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL** furnished garden guest apartment w/kitchen. Private. 1/2 blk to restaurants. Non-smoking. Short term only. 861-3208.

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**Happy Birthday ...**

**HAPPY AUGUST (already?) BIRTHDAY:** Lenny Anderson, Anti-Cigarette League founded (U.S. 1919), Air traffic controllers strike (1981), Rosamonde Bagan, James Baldwin, Shaun & Kevin Barclift, Sue Bierman, Cantinflas, Cleopatra commits suicide (30 B.C), Bill Clinton, Count Basie, Phil deAndrade, Edison gets patent for mimeograph (1876), Emmett Till killed in Mississippi for talking to a white woman (1955), Carolyn Fennis, Kirk Cunningham Fujimoto, Geraldine Ferraro, Nancy Fox, Bill Goff, Larry Gonick, Jon Greenberg, Max Harstein, C.J. Hirschfield, "Magic" Johnson, Ellie Katz, Miriam Kaye, Julie Kavanagh, Brian Kessler, Marvin Kurtz, Bernie Lefkowitz, Michael Madrigal, Kazuhiro Makita, Enola Maxwell, Jolin McGill, Flicka McGurtin, Queen Mum, Nixon relinquishes presidency of U.S. (1974), Charlie "Bird" Parker, Cathey Passin, Pegasus - a true porker - wins Yippie nomination for U.S. President (1968), Cesar Perez, Ambur Rector, Malvina Reynolds, Paul Sarvis, William Saroyan, Social Security Act signed (1935), Camisha & Suhayla Sulaiman, Julia Sevilla, "The Wolf," world's first radio play (1922), Yippies invade Disneyland (1970). Welcome: Sakina Shakurah Sulaiman born July 30, 2003 (granddaughter #3 for Lounnie Ford).



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